

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 EB-07 EA-07 AF-08 OMB-01 SSM-03

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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6997

INFO USMISSION USUNNEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 CAIRO 12326

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UN, EG

SUBJECT: PRE-31ST UNG A CONSULTATIONS

REF (A) STATE 220772 (B) STATE 220773

1. ON SEPTEMBER 8 POLCOUNS CALLED ON TWO SENIOR MFA OFFICIALS WHO WILL ATTEND UNGA, DIRECTOR OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS DEPARTMENT MAHMUD ABU NASR AND DIRECTOR LEGAL DEPARTMENT NABIL AL-ARABY, TO REVIEW ISSUES CONTAINED REFTELS. FOLLOW-UP MEETING WITH ABU NASR TOOK PLACE SEPTEMBER 11. THEIR COMMENTS FOLLOW:

2. KOREA. ALTHOUGH USG POSITION WELL-KNOWN TO HIGHEST LEVELS OF GOE AND DEPT. WELL AWARE OF GOE REASONS FOR CONTINUING TO SUPPORT NORTH KOREAN POSITION, POLCOUNS REVIEWED TALKING POINTS CONTAINED REF B. DESPITE "PERSONAL" APPRECIATION OF VALIDITY OF USG POSITION AND OBVIOUSNESS OF NORTH KOREAN CAMPAIGN TO OBTAIN WITHDRAWAL OF US TROOPS FROM KOREA BEFORE ENGAGING IN ANY NEGOTIATIONS, BOTH OFFICIALS SAID GOE HAS NO CHOICE BUT TO MAINTAIN ITS PAST POLICY. WHILE GOE DECISION APPARENTLY NOT YET MADE WHETHER TO CO-SPONSOR NORTH KOREAN RESOLUTION, AL-NASR THOUGHT IT MIGHT BE HELPFUL IF GOE COULD
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AT MINIMUM AVOID BEING CO-SPONSOR.

3. SOUTHERN AFRICA. GOE WELL AWARE OF SECRETARY'S STRENUOUS EFFORTS TO RESOLVE MOST PRESSING SOUTHERN AFRICAN PROBLEMS THROUGH NEGOTIATIONS AND IT SUPPORTS THIS EFFORT. NEVERTHELESS, GOE CONSIDERS SOUTHERN AFRICAN ISSUES "EXPLOSIVE" AND HIGHLY EMOTIONAL FOR ALL AFRICAN STATES. WHILE GOE ALSO HOPES TO AVOID DIVISIVE UNGA DEBATES ON THESE ISSUES, BOTH OFFICIALS IMPLIED THAT GOE WOULD HAVE TO GO ALONG WITH AFRICAN SPONSORED RESOLUTIONS.

4. ZIONISM/RACISM. ISSUE RAISED IN CONTEXT OF USG DESIRE TO PARTICIPATE IN PROGRAM ON DECADE FOR ACTION TO COMBAT RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION. AL-NASR SAID THAT HE DID NOT APPROVE OF ZIONIST/RACISM RESOLUTIONS WHICH HE REALIZED DID NOT BENEFIT ARAB CAUSE, PARTICULARLY IN WEST. HE PREFERS APPROACH THAT CALLS ON ISRAEL TO ADHERE TO UN CHARTER OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND THAT LEADS TO RESOLUTIONS POINTING OUT WHERE RIGHTS OF PALESTINIANS ARE BEING VIOLATED. HE SAID GOE HAD ATTEMPTED TO DISCOURAGE ZIONISM/RACISM RESOLUTION IN PAST AND WOULD CONTINUE TO DO SO AT 31ST UNGA. HOWEVER, IF RESOLUTION PUT FORWARD REFERRING TO 3379 GOE WOULD HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO GO ALONG. AL-NASR FURTHER STATED THAT HE BELIEVED US WOULD DO BETTER TO PARTICIPATE IN DEBATE AND MAKE KNOWN ITS VIEWS IN FORECFUL WAY RATHER THAN WITHDRAWING FROM DEBATE.

5. CYPRUS. OFFICIALS SAID THAT GOE POSITION IS SIMILAR TO USG IN SUPPORT OF SECRETARY GENERAL EFFORTS TO PROMOTE A SETTLEMENT. GOE PREFERS MORE NEUTRAL NAC RESOLUTION TO THE ISLAMIC CONFERENCE RESOLUTION WHICH HAD LEANED TOWARD TURKISH VIEW. GOE VIEWS CYRPUS PROBLEM THROUGH PALES-TINIAN-ARAB-ISRAELI PERSPECTIVE AND WILL CONTINUE TO SUPPORT RESOLUTIONS THAT NOT SET ANY PRECEDENT THAT WOULD HARM PALESTINIAN CAUSE.

6. WESTERN SAHARA. GOE AGREES WITH US THAT EFFORTS TO RESOLVE SAHARAN DISPUTE PEACEFULLY AND ON REGIONAL BASIS ARE BEST COURSE. FOR TIME BEING GOE SUPPORTS OAU AS REGIONAL ORGANIZATION THAT CAN BEST DEAL WITH THE PROBLEM RATHER THAN ARAB LEAGUE. ABU NASR OPINED THAT ALGERIA LIKELY TO PRESS ITS CASE HARD AGAIN THIS YEAR.

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7. INDIAN OCEAN PEACE ZONE. AL-ARABY RECOGNIZES VALIDITY OF US POSITION THAT A REGIONAL GROUP OF STATES CANNOT IMPOSE A SPECIAL LEGAL REGIME ON A CERTAIN PART OF HIGH SEAS. NEVERTHELESS, BOTH OFFICIALS EXPECT GOE TO CONTINUE TO SUPPORT RESOLUTION 3468. ABU NASR SAID FRANKLY THAT ISSUE NOT OF GREAT INTEREST TO GOE AND GOE POSITION IN PROPOSED CONFERENCE ON INDIAN OCEAN HAD NOT YET EVEN BEEN DISCUSSED IN MFA.

8. HUMAN RIGHTS. GOE IS STRONG SUPPORTER OF HUMAN RIGHTS RESOLUTIONS AND WILL CONTINUE TO BE SO. AL-ARABY CONFIDED THAT FRG AMBASSADOR HAD RECENTLY APPROACHED FONMIN FAHMY TO REQUEST SUPPORT FOR FRG PROPOSAL FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS COURT. FAHMY HAD RESPONDED THAT GOE WOULD BE PLEASED TO STUDY FRG PROPOSAL BUT UNTIL IT DID SO WOULD RESERVE ITS POSITION. FAHMY HAD INSTRUCTED AL-ARABY TO REVIEW FRG PROPOSAL WHEN IT SUBMITTED IN WRITING.

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9. INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM. AL-ARABY ALSO APPEARED AWARE OF FRG PROPOSAL ON MEASURES AGAINST THE TAKING OF HOSTAGES BUT HE DID NOT SAY WHETHER FRG HAD SOUGHT GOE SUPPORT. AL-ARABY HAS BEEN DESIGNATED AS EGYPTIAN REPRESENTATIVE ON TERRORISM COMMITTEE AND BELIEVES STRONGLY IN SOME ACTION. HOWEVER, ARABS AND AFRICANS ARE LIKELY TO INSIST ON PARAGRAPH EXEMPTING THOSE FIGHTING FOR SELF-DETERMINATION AND LIBERATION. POLCOUNS STRESSED THAT ANY SUCH EXCEPTION FOR SELF-STYLED LIBERATION MOVEMENTS WOULD TAKE TEETH OUT OF RESOLUTION. AL-ARABY AGREED BUT SAID GOE STILL HAD TO FACE PROBLEM OF HOW TO PERSUADE OTHERS TO GO ALONG SINCE SUPPORT OF ACTIVITIES OF LIBERATION MOVEMENTS HAD BECOME TENET OF NAC POLICY. ABU NASR, ON OTHER HAND, SAID THERE SHOULD BE NO EXCEPTIONS FOR LIBERATION GROUPS, BUT THAT ARAB GROUP WOULD INSIST ON

INCLUDING STATES (I.E. ISRAEL) WHO PRACTICE "TERRORISM."
(COMMENT: BELIEVE IT WOULD BE WORTHWHILE FOR USUN TO WORK
CLOSELY WITH AL-ARABY ON THIS SUBJECT SINCE HE IS OPEN TO
SUGGESTIONS AND WILL APPARENTLY BE KEY GOE PARTICIPANT).

10. DISARMAMENT CONFERENCE. AL-ARABY WAS VERY FRANK IN STATING
THAT GOE KNEW SPECIAL SESSION WOULD BE UNLIKELY TO COMEUP WITH
REALISTIC OR CONSTRUCTIVE PROGRAMS. AS IN PAST, HOWEVER, GOE
ALONG WITH OTHER SMALL STABAS CONSIDERED SUCH RESOLUTIONS AS
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USEFUL PROD TO GREAT POWERS TO SPEED UP DISARMAMENT NEGOTIATIONS
WHICH OTHERWISE DRAGGED ON FOR YEARS. HE SAID RESOLUTION 3474 XXX ON
NUCLEAR FREE ZONE IN MIDDLE EAST CONTINUED TO BE OF PARTICULAR
INTEREST TO GOE WHICH WANTS TO SEE IT IMPLEMENTED.

11. UNCTAD IV. SUBJECT HANDLED BY MFA ECONOMIC DEPT, WITH
WHICH WE SEEKING APPOINTMENT.

12. UN BUDGET. ABU NASR ADMITTED THAT SMALL STATES INVARIABLY
VOTE IN FAVOR OF ADD-ONS SINCE IT DOESN'T COST THEM MUCH.
POLCOUNS SAID THIS WAS GOOD EXAMPLE OF THE KIND OF IRRESPONSIBILITY
THAT HAS RESULTED IN THE U.S. CONGRESS AND PUBLIC VIEWING
UN WITH INCREASINGLY JAUNDICED EYE. GOE SHOLULD BE AWARE THAT
IF IT CONTINUES, A LESSENING OF US SUPPORT FOR
UN MAY BE INEVITABLE.

13. UN RESTRUCTURING. GOE INTERESTED IN RESTRUCTIURING AND
HAS MEMBER ON AD HOC COMMITTEE, ABDUL HAMID ABDUL GHANY,
EDITOR IN CHIEF OF AL-AKHBAR AND A LONG TIME UN OFFICIAL.
GOE PARTICULARLY CONCERNED WITH DUPLICATION OF EFFORT BY
SPECIALIZED AGENCIES.

14. EXTERNAL EVALUATION MECHANISM. GOE STRONGLY FAVOR
SOME SUCH MECHANISM TO IMPROVE EFFECTIVENESS OF UN PROGRAMS.

15. MIDDLE EAST. AL-ARABY BROUGHT UP POSSIBILITY OF MIDDLE
EAST RESOLUTION AND SAID HE HAD EVERY INTENTION OF ATTEMPTING
TO PERSUADE HIS GOVERNMENT TO INSERT PARAGRAPH CALING UPON
ALL COUNTRIES NOT TO PROVIDE AID TO ISRAEL THAT WOULD BE UTILIZED
TO EXPLOIT WEALTH OF OCCUPIED TERRITORISTS OR IN ANY WAY SUPPORT
ISRAEL SETTLEMENT POLICY IN OCCUPIED TERRITORIES. SUCH RESOLUTION
WOULD CITE 1907 HAGUE CONVENTION AND AMNOT RPT NOT INCLUDE AID
TO BE UTILIZED IN ISRAEL PROPER. HE WOULD HOPE, THEREBY TO
AVOID U.S. VETO.

16. COMMENT: FORMIN FAHMY HAS CHOSEN AS HIS NEW DEPT. HEADS
GROUP OF COMPETENT, REATIVELY YOUNG OFFICIALS WITH LONG
EXPERIENCE IN UN AFFAIRS, OF WHOM AL-ARABY AND ABU NASR
ARE JUST TWO. USUN SHOULD FIND IT PROFITABLE TO WORK CLOSELY

WITH THEM. GOE FOCUS IN 31ST UNGA WILL AGAIN BE ON MIDDLE
EAST, PARTICULARLY ME RESOLUTION AND REPORT OF COMMITTEE
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OF 20 ON PALESTINIANS, AND AT THIS WRITING WE BELIEVE GOE
DEL WILL ESPOUSE WITH NEW ENERGY GOE LEADERSHIP ROLE AND ENCOURAGE
OTHER ARAB MODERATES TO STAND UP FOR THEIR CONVICTIONS
INSTEAD OF KNUCKLING UNDER TO RADICAL PRESSURE.
MATTHEWS

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